

REMARKS

The application is believed in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8-11 and 15-53 are pending in the application. Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 4, 8-11 and 15-53 are allowed.

Claim 6 previously indicated as allowed was rejected over KIMURA et al. 6,632,696. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

The position set forth in the Official Action is that Figures 53A and 53B of KIMURA teach a multilayer conductive structure having two layers but further passages in KIMURA teach that the multilayer conductive structure may have three layers. The Official Action offers paragraph 278 of KIMURA as teaching a three layer multilevel conductive structure having a bottom layer of Ti, a middle layer of Al and a top layer of TiN. The Official Action further indicates that certain paragraphs of KIMURA further teach that the nitrogen concentration of the TiN film is at least 25%.

Although the Examiner's characterization of KIMURA appears correct, nevertheless, KIMURA does not meet the recited limitations.

Applicants note that paragraph [0736] of KIMURA teaches a three-layer structure of Ti, Al and TiN with Al being the middle layer and a nitrogen concentration of the nitride film not lower than 25%.

However, the recited structure of the multi-level film includes Al at the bottom, Ti at the middle and TiN film at the top. Since KIMURA teaches Al as the middle film, the disclosed structure of KIMURA does not meet the limitations of claim 6. Accordingly, KIMURA does not teach each of the recited limitations.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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